GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
IRON SUPPLEMENTATION THROUGH TOFFEES
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plan to supplement iron through toffees;

(b) if so, the details of the implementing agency;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study on the effectiveness of this iron supplementation through toffees; and

(d) if so, the findings of the study?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The State Governments of West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have been distributing fortified toffees to supplement iron to children, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Programme with support from the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), and international not profit making organization, have developed these fortified toffees containing Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Iron and Folic Acid and distributing it through ICDS channel and monitoring it through the above State Governments, reaching to about 5 million beneficiaries on a daily basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Micronutrient Initiative Project under the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of West Bengal, Commissioned a study which has been conducted by Child in Need Institute, Kolkata, in the Howrah District to West Bengal, to see the effectiveness of the iron supplementation through toffees. The Biological Impact Assessment Study has shown a significant increase in the mean hemoglobin levels, which resulted in a decrease in the prevalence of anemia from 66.6% to 51% in pre-school children and from 63% to 52.9% in adolescent girls.